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John Amos Comenius, His Life and Educational Works. By S. S. LAURIE, A.M. 5½x7. pp. 272. C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, N. Y., 1892. \$1.

This is the Reading-Circle Edition of the best, and indeed the only, life of the good Moravian bishop who rightly won the title given him by Professor Laurie, "Founder of Method." The greatness of his service to education gets increasing recognition. The present edition of the Life differs from former ones mainly in the insertion of five portraits, in the addition of a bibliography of some length, and in photographic reproductions of pages from early editions of the works of Comenius.

Four Hundred Years of American History. By JACOB HARRIS PATTON, A.M., PH.D., with an Introduction by JOHN LORD, D.D., LL.D. Two volumes. pp. xlvii-1215. 6x9 in. Fords, Howard & Hulbert. New York, 1892.

Patton's History of the United States has long been favorably known and has had a large constituency of readers. The Four Hundred Years of American History is part of the series projected by the publishers entitled the Red Letter Life of the Republic. For this purpose the history has been continued down to 1892. A brilliant sketch of the progress of the United States during this period by Dr. John Lord, and an essay by Ralph Waldo Emerson on Selected Historic Forces, which is not usually included in collections of his works, form an introduction to the whole work. This sentence from the concluding paragraph of Dr. Lord's essay we think fairly qualifies the work. "This excellent book . . . while it does not startle us by creative generalization nor enter upon critical speculations on disputed points, makes admirable use of accepted facts. It is clear in style, condensed, interesting in narrative, lofty in tone and truthful in statement. It is rather remarkable for its discriminating selection of events and influential elements to be set forth and for its lucid presentation of them." Let us add that the press-work, paper and binding in these sumptuous volumes leave practically nothing to desire. There is probably no other book of the size so good for the general reader, the teacher and the school library. The splendid new edition deserves that the large measure of popular appreciation that the work has enjoyed should be greatly increased.

The Story of Sicily. By EDWARD A. FREEMAN, "The Story of the Nations" series. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1892. 5¾x7¾ in. pp. xiv, 378. \$1.50.

"The claim of the history of Sicily to a place in the Story of the Nations is not that there ever has been a Sicilian Nation. There has very seldom been a time when there was a power ruling over all Sicily and over nothing out of Sicily. There has never been a time when there was one language spoken by all men in Sicily and by no men out of Sicily. . . . The historical importance of Sicily comes, not from its being the seat of any one nation, but from its being the meeting-place and the battlefield of many nations." It is as the "meeting-place of many nations" that Sicily interested Mr. Freeman, and he has made the history of this island an epitome of universal history. The series has kept to a high standard wonderfully.

The Rise of the Swiss Republic. By W. D. McCrackan, A.M. Boston: Arena Publishing Co. 6¼x9 in. pp. x, 413. \$3.00.

The author, a young American scholar, has devoted himself with the greatest enthusiasm to the study of the wonderful Helvetian republic with

constant references to the comparisons that may be drawn between the institutions of Switzerland and those of the United States. The subject is one of peculiar interest to us, and has nowhere else been treated so thoroughly. The whole story of the rise of Helvetia from complete bondage to absolute independence is told clearly and most entertainingly. There are many political lessons in the last thirty years of Swiss history that we will do well to possess. This book will teach them better than any other.

An Advanced Arithmetic. By JOHN W. COOK, President Illinois State Normal University, and MISS M. CROPSEY, Assistant Superintendent City Schools, Indianapolis, Ind. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in. pp. 359. Boston; Silver, Burdett & Co. 72 cents.

An Elementary Arithmetic. By the same.

These two works, by teachers of more than ordinary success in teaching mathematics, together make up the "Normal Course in Number." Miss Cropsey's work is in the Elementary, President Cook's in the Advanced book. The latter was suggested by the conviction based on many years of experience, that the rational side of the subject is seriously neglected. Special stress is laid on the study of principles and the explanation of processes, to the end that the learner shall have every facility for the use of his reasoning powers. The power to generalize relieves the mind from the overwhelming burden of a countless multitude of facts. Arithmetic should be recognized as a science that is deduced from the idea of addition. Such are the author's principles. The are surely right, and are worked out in the books before us with this care born of fifteen years' teaching experience.

Pocket Atlas of the Ancient World. By DR. ALB. VAN KAMPEN. 24 copper-plate maps, colored, with an Index. Gotha, Justus Perthes. N. Y. B. Westermann & Co.

Justus Perthes Pocket-Atlas has served students so good a turn that they will be ready to welcome a companion volume devoted to ancient geography. Some idea of the amount of information in this little volume, which deserves its title "pocket" atlas, is had from the index, which covers 60 pages and contains no less than 7,000 names, with the reference for finding each. Latin is the language employed on the maps, though there is an English and German preface. We echo the wish of the editor that the little *Atlas Antiquus* may find many friends in a wide circle.

The Famous Allegories. Selections and extracts for reading and study. By James Baldwin, Ph.D. $5 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ in. pp. 304. Silver, Burdett & Co.

This is the second volume of a series of Select English Classics which the publishers have in course of preparation. An interesting Fore Word treats of the Personification of Nature, Origin of Myth, Origin of Allegory, Bible Allegories, Greek Allegories, Anglo-Saxon Allegories, etc. The selections include The Vision of Piers Ploughman, The Romaunt of the Rose, The Court of Love, The Faerie Queene, The Pilgrim's Progress, The Vision of Mirza, and others somewhat less well known. Nine classic fables complete the collection. The book has much to commend it. The informing idea which seems to be that of giving a comprehensive view and a definite impression of one great class of literature, is not commonplace and is certainly admirable. Binding and press work are rather better than the average.

Our Bodies and How we Live. By ALBERT F. BLAISDELL, M.D. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in. pp. iv, 412. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

A new edition of a well-known text-book, thoroughly revised, with much new matter. The most important addition is a new, interesting chapter on physical exercise, containing brief descriptions of the leading systems of gymnastics.